

Serial No. 10/923,641  
Amdt. with RCE Dated December 26, 2006

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DEC 26 2006

Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit this amendment with their RCE. This amendment replaces the amendment after final and statement of substance of interview submitted on November 17, 2006, which was not entered. Because the current amendment replaces the November 17 amendment, applicants respect their request that the latter not be entered. Based on discussions at the personal interview conducted on May 11, 2006, and further discussions in the telephonic interview conducted on October 25, 2006, the current amendment places this application in condition for allowance.

Applicants also submit a Rule 1.132 Declaration by John A. McClure, which unequivocally states that he was the inventor of the subject matter of U.S. 6,539,303 cited by the examiner. Therefore, the reference invention is not "by another" and is not prior art under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or (e). See, MPEP § 706.02(b). The original application incorporated this patent and its continuation-in-part by reference. See paragraph [0091].

As noted by the examiner at the interview conducted on May 11, 2006, with U.S. 6,539,303 removed, the pending claims appear to overcome the prior art of record. Therefore, the application appears to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Substance of the October 25, 2006 Interview

- 1) No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted.
- 2) Claims 1-21 were discussed.
- 3) McClure et al. 6,539,303 was discussed.
- 4) The principal proposed amendment involved removing U.S. 6,539,303 in order to overcome the prior art rejection, e.g. by perfecting any priority claim and swearing behind McClure's PG publication date.
- 5) Applicants' principal argument was that McClure et al. U.S. 6,539,303 could be removed as a reference, whereby the claims would be allowable, as indicated by the examiner.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being filed by  
facsimile transmission (571-273-8300) with  
the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.  
Date of transmission: December 26, 2006

Mark Brown